DICTIONARY OF

COMPUTERS, INFORMATION PROCESSING & TELECOMMUNICATIONS

SECOND EDITION

automatic sequencing: the ability of equipment to put information in order or in a connected series without human intervention.

impulse noise: short bursts of high-level noise such as that resulting from the coupling of transients into a channel. Typical sources of such noises are lightning and transients from switching systems. Impulse noise, which sounds like a click, is not particularly detrimental to voice communications. but it can be detrimental to data communications. Some of the older switching systems. such as the Panel type. create so much impulse noise that DATAPHONE service is not handled by central offices of this type.

miscellaneous common carrier (MCC): a communications common carrier which is not engaged in the business of providing either a public landline message telephone service or public message telegraph service. Miscellaneous common carriers were initially authorized to serve TV and radio markets. Today they are still viewed as serving these markets. although Domestic Satellite Carriers and Specialized Common Carriers also meet the FCC definition of Miscellaneous Common Carriers.

portability: the ability to use data sets or files with differing operating systems. Volumes whose data sets or files are cataloged in a user catalog can be demounted from storage devices of one system, moved to another system and mounted on storage devices of that system.

remote call forwarding (RCF): a service offering which allows customers to have a telephone number in an ESS office without having any other local telephone service in that office. Calls coming to the remote call forwarding number are automatically forwarded to any answering location the customer wants.

zero suppression: the elimination from a numeral of zeros that have no significance in the numeral. Zeros that have no significance include those to the left of the nonzero digits in the integral part of a numeral and those to the right of the nonzero digits in the fractional part. Or on a calculator. the process by which unwanted zeros are omitted from the printed or displayed result of a calculation.

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PAD: see *packet assembly/disassembly.*

pad

(1) to fill a block with dummy data, usually zeros or blanks.

(2) a device which introduces transmission loss into a circuit. It may be inserted to introduce loss or match impedances. See also *push-button dialing pad, switching pad.*

pad character: a character introduced to use up time or space while a function (usually mechanical) is being accomplished; for example, carriage return form eject.

padding

(1) a technique that incorporates fillers in data. (A) (B)

(2) in PL/1, one or more characters or bits concatenated to the right of a string to extend the string to a required length. For character strings, padding is with blanks; for bit strings, it is with zeros.

(3) deprecated term for *filler.* (A) (B)

paddle: a cursor control unit used for computer games.

P address: the location where the program branches or to which data is transparent on some equipment.

page (PG)

(1) a block of instructions, or data, or both, that can be located in main storage or in auxiliary storage. Segmentation and loading of these blocks is automatically controlled by a computer. (A)

(2) in a virtual storage system, a fixed-length block that has a virtual address and that can be transferred between real storage and auxiliary storage. (B)

(3) in word processing, a defined section of a document.

(4) to transfer instructions, data, or both, between real storage and external page storage.

pageable memory: that part of a computer's main memory subject to ing under a virtual storage system

page addressing: addressing wh memory is separated into segme in order to make complete usage addressing capability. see *page.*

page-at-a-time printer: synonym *page printer.* (A)

page body: in COBOL, that part of logical page in which lines can written and/or spaced.

page boundary: the point at wh memory addressing progresses fr one logical page to the next.

page charge: a tariff charged to a u of a videotex system by an infor tion provider for access to a pag information.

page controls: in word processing machine capability to operate page.

page data set: an extent in auxili storage, in which pages are store

page-depth control (last line): a c trol for specifying the maxim number of lines to be printed page.

page display: in word processi shows where page breaks will oc when the document is printed.

paged machine: a computer that vides memory addresses into blo of words, referred to as pages.

page-end character (PE): a word-p cessing formatting control that d notes the end of a page. Page e may be moved or ignored during adjust mode operations. synon mous with *form feed character.* *required page-end character.*

page fault: an interrupt occurri when a program requires an item data or an instruction not presently main memory. This permits the so ware to transfer the page containi the required data or instruction main memory from external storag see *demand paging.*

secondary store: synonymous with *backing store.*

secondary trunk exchange: an exchange that handles major routings in a public telephone network and is connected only to other trunk exchanges.

second computer age: the coming of artificial intelligence by computers. see *artificial intelligence.*

second-generation computer: a computer utilizing solid state components.

second-level addressing: see *level of addressing.*

second source: an alternative supplier of an item of hardware or software. The availability of a second source is usually a major consideration when purchasing devices.

section

(1) in COBOL, a logically related sequence of one or more paragraphs. A section must always be named.

(2) in computer graphics, to construct the bounded or unbounded intersecting plane with respect to one or more displayed objects and then to display the intersection. (E)

(3) deprecated term for *segment.* (A) (B)

(4) see also *control section.*

sectional center: a control center connecting primary centers together; a class I office.

section header: in COBOL, a combination of words that precedes and identifies each section in the environment, data, and procedure divisions.

section name: in COBOL, a word specified by the programmer that precedes and identifies a section in the procedure division.

section number: the number that identifies a specific section in a series of sections that make up a file.

section text: part of a load module

with computer instructions in final form and data defined with specified initial values.

sector: that part of a track or band on a magnetic drum, a magnetic disk, or a disk pack that can be accessed by the magnetic heads in the course of a predetermined rotational displacement of the particular device. (B) see *disk sector.*

security: see *data-processing system security, data security.*

seek: to selectively position the access mechanism of a direct-access device. deprecated term for *search (1), search (2), search cycle.* (A)

seek area: synonymous with *cylinder.*

seek key: in word processing, a control used to locate an address on the recording medium. synonymous with *search key.* (D)

seek time: the time that is needed to position the access mechanism of a direct-access storage device at a specified position. see also *access time.*

SEG: see *segment.*

segment (SEG)

(1) a self-contained portion of a computer program that may be executed without the entire computer program necessarily being maintained in internal storage at any one time. (B)

(2) to divide a computer program into segments. (A) (B)

(3) see *child segment, dependent segment, logical child segment, logical parent segment, overlay segment, parent segment, physical child segment, physical parent segment, physical segment, root segment.*

segmentation: a programmer-defined and monitor-implemented approach of separating a program into self-contained segments so that only certain parts need be in memory at any one time.

segmenting: dividing information into